

Szabo, Todd

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Subject: FW: S.B. 70

From: Lukingbeal, Eric
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2014 10:29 AM
To: 'Env.Testimony@cga.gov'
Subject: S.B. 70

I write in enthusiastic support of S.B. 70. I live in Granby, and enjoy hiking and visiting our state's wonderful parks and forests.

A few months ago, I read CEQ's report "Preserved But Maybe Not." That report, along with the reporting in the Courant about the Haddam Land Swap, convinced me that our state lands are vulnerable to the vagaries of politics, and to the whims of bureaucrats. Lands owned by the state are, in my view, all held in trust for the citizens of Connecticut. They do not belong to the majority party, nor to the administrative agency under whose jurisdiction they may fall. The Haddam Land Swap fiasco shows that they are all at risk, and need protection.

While I believe that a constitutional amendment is the only way to assure protection (because the legislature can always avoid complying with a statute by specifically exempting a transfer of land from other statutory requirements), S.B. 70 is a needed stop gap while the constitutional amendment process unfolds. Both New York and Massachusetts have seen the wisdom of constitutional protection, which cannot be skirted by the legislative or the executive branches.

In the meantime, please pass S.B. 70.

--Eric Lukingbeal

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